

March 11, 2022

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I am writing in support of:

- S.B. No. 387: AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE POLICY AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.
- S.B. No. 392: AN ACT CONCERNING STATEMENTS MADE BY JUVENILES.

I am writing in opposition to:

- S.B. No. 365: AN ACT CONCERNING JUVENILE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORMS
- S.B. No. 388: AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEFENSE OF A PERSON OR A PERSON'S DWELLING, PLACE OF WORK OR MOTOR VEHICLE.
- H.B. No. 5418: AN ACT REVISING JUVENILE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE STATUTES AND INSURANCE STATUTES CONCERNING THEFT OF A MOTOR VEHICLE
- H.B. No. 5417: AN ACT CONCERNING JUVENILE JUSTICE AND SERVICES AND FIREARMS BACKGROUND CHECKS.
- S.B. No. 386: AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF THE JUVENILE DELINQUENCY LAWS OF THIS STATE.

My name is Ted Loewenthal and I live in West Hartford. I count myself among the active supporters of GHIAA. I am writing in support of the successful juvenile justice system here in Connecticut and therefore in opposition to the suite of bills now proposed which would undermine the successes of this system without addressing any legitimate issues faced by our state.

These proposals are based on a misinformation campaign about rising crime in Connecticut by youth. The facts, available in work from the Tow Foundation and elsewhere, do not support these assertions.

Here in Connecticut, we are fortunate to already have in place a Juvenile Justice and Oversight Committee. This is an effective and proven forum and for that reason I am writing in support of SB 387. Other policy changes should be routed through this existing body which will act on the basis of data and which includes a broad representation of stakeholders. We should use the system in place and not yield to this fearmongering in the service of undisguised political motivations.

The proposed bills will be detrimental to our youth and would set back our state. It would be better policy to invest in the root causes of crime in our state such as affordable housing, public education, job training and mental health treatment.

Thank you for your consideration.

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